

## OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

A REPORT FOR SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: JULY 19, 2013 – SEPT 19, 2013

### ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary spans 3,189 square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula coastline. The sanctuary extends 25 to 50 miles seaward, covering much of the continental shelf and several major submarine canyons.

The sanctuary protects a productive upwelling zone - home to rich marine mammal and seabird faunas, diverse populations of kelp and intertidal algae, and thriving invertebrate communities. The sanctuary is also rich in cultural resources, with over 150 documented historical shipwrecks and the vibrant contemporary cultures of Makah, Quileute, and Hoh Indian Tribes, and Quinault Nation.

## OFFICE REPORT

### OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Organized by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS or sanctuary) management plan priority areas

#### OCNMS Staff on Marine Debris Team Awarded NOAA

##### Administrator's Award

Three staff from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) were recipients of NOAA's Administrator's Award for outstanding interagency collaboration to reduce the impact of the 2011 Japan tsunami marine debris on OCNMS. George Galasso, Liam Antrim and Nancy Wright were chosen for this award, which recognizes employees who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, skill, and ingenuity in their significant, unique and original contributions that bring unusual credit to NOAA, the Department of Commerce and the Federal Government. Other team members recognized included: Lisa Symons, Nir Barnea, David Lott, Keeley Belva, Nancy Wallace, Anthony Buch, Henry (Ted) Buehner, and Andrew Haner. These esteemed recipients will be honored at a ceremony on Tues., Oct. 22 at the NOAA Auditorium in Silver Spring, MD.

## TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

Executive Order (E.O.) 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" (November 6, 2000), requires each Federal agency to establish procedures for meaningful consultation and coordination with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications. In June 2013, NOAA provided for public comment on "NOAA Procedures for Government-to-Government Consultation with Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives". These procedures for government-to-government consultation as well as routine communications with Tribal governments, responds to President Obama's 2009 White House Memorandum and the 2000 Executive Order 13175 by reaffirming the unique trust relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribal governments. The purpose of the handbook is to formalize a process that ensures accountable, meaningful and timely input from tribal officials when communicating with federal officials and reaffirm NOAA's commitment to work collaboratively and cooperatively with federally recognized Tribes. When finalized, all NOAA offices will use this guidance for conducting tribal consultations.

## ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

#### OCNMS Advisory Council New Member Recruitment

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council is accepting applications for two vacant primary seats: 1) Conservation and 2) Tourism/ Economic Development through September 30, 2013. Candidates will be selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and views regarding the protection and management of marine resources. Applicants who are chosen should expect to serve a 3-year term. For more information, please contact Karlyn Langjahr, Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator, at [Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov](mailto:Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov) or (360) 457-6622 x 31. For more information about the Advisory Council, and/or to download the application kit, visit

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac\\_welcome.html](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_welcome.html)

#### Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary has accepted an invitation from Olympic National Park to be a cooperating agency on their Wilderness Stewardship Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (WSP/EIS). A portion of the sanctuary overlaps with the park's wilderness area.

### **Port Angeles City Council Approves Memorandum of Agreement for Port Angeles Marine Campus Partnership**

The City of Port Angeles City Council unanimously voted to approve a draft MOA between the City of Port Angeles, Feiro Marine Life Center, and NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The MOA outlines the partnership and responsibilities in creating a Port Angeles Marine Campus to meet each organization's programmatic needs. City Council members and Mayor Cherie Kidd expressed their strong support and appreciation for the efforts of staff involved with the project.

### **13th Coast Guard District Commander Visits Sanctuary**

Rear Admiral Richard T. Gromlich took command of the 13th Coast Guard District on June 28, 2013. As part of his familiarization on his new command he toured Coast Guard stations adjacent to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and was briefed by Superintendent Carol Bernthal on the sanctuary program, OCNMS operations and on the details of our coordination and collaboration with the USCG.

## **CONDUCT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING TO INFORM ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT**

### **Annual Intertidal Monitoring Completed with Assistance of Hollings Scholars and Makah Summer Youth Program**



An Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary field crew completed annual intertidal monitoring at rocky and sand shores of the Makah Reservation. This is a long-term monitoring project following Multi-agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) protocols employed along the Pacific Coast. Two Hollings Scholar interns (Kevin Pelstring and Vanessa Constant) working at the sanctuary offices for the summer assisted with field work and had the opportunity to visit remote locations on the outer coast to explore intertidal areas. In addition, four high school students working for the Makah Summer Youth Program assisted with beach monitoring, where they learned techniques for measuring a beach profile, sand core sampling, and identification of common infauna.

### **R/V *Tatoosh* Cruise Discovers Low-Oxygen Conditions off Cape Elizabeth**

In late July 2013, the crew on Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's R/V *Tatoosh* found hypoxic (low oxygen) conditions off Cape Elizabeth, WA, during a routine oceanographic mooring servicing trip. Dissolved oxygen levels near the seafloor measured as low as 1.6mg/l at 42m depth and 1.2 mg/l at 15 m depth. Hypoxic conditions are considered to exist when the dissolved oxygen (DO) is <2 mg/l or <1.43 ml/l. Based on data from previous years, these findings are unusually early in the season. It was also uncommon in the fact that waters at 15m depth tend to be better mixed than deeper waters, so lower oxygen levels are expected for offshore versus nearshore locations. Hypoxic conditions were not observed off Kalaloch Beach, approximately 10 miles north of Cape Elizabeth. Although monitoring was planned to track the severity and location of hypoxic waters, vessel repairs prevented this work until the end of August when oxygen levels had improved and returned to levels above the hypoxia threshold at all mooring stations between 15m and 42m depth. At 65 m depth off Cape Elizabeth, however, near-bottom oxygen levels were slightly hypoxic, with readings just below the 2 mg/l threshold. Approximately two weeks later in mid-September the hypoxic waters had moved further offshore and were found only at the 100m station off Cape Elizabeth. Low oxygen and/or hypoxic conditions can be harmful or even lethal to marine organisms, particularly to active organisms living near the seafloor. Thousands of dead crabs and some dead fish were observed in August on shores near Cape Elizabeth and south, presumably an effect of hypoxic conditions in nearshore waters.



### **Annual Meeting of the Multi-agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe)**

Liam Antrim, OCNMS Resource Protection Specialist, attended the annual meeting of the Multi-agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe), which was held in Forks, WA on August 15-17, 2013. Liam was invited to a small group session to discuss implementation of a citizen science-based intertidal monitoring project, and presented an overview of sanctuary-led research. MARINe developed standard monitoring methods and oversees their implementation at over 200 sites between California and Alaska. In 2012, MARINe was awarded the U.S. Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award.

### **Taxonomic Guide to Deep Sea Organisms from Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**

A new report, *Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), Okeanos Explorer Cruise, 2011, Taxonomic Guide*, has been published in the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' Conservation Series. The guide is authored by Danielle Lipski of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Jennifer L. Bright of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. This is the first taxonomic guide of deep sea organisms for CINMS based on a 2011 research cruised on the NOAA ship *Okeanos* to complete multi-beam mapping and a series of exploratory dives using the Little Hercules Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). The species observations from the dives are recorded in the taxonomic guide to provide baseline characterization for this underexplored habitat in the sanctuary. The guide will be amended as more studies are added or completed and can be downloaded from [http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/conservation/cinms\\_tax\\_guide.html](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/conservation/cinms_tax_guide.html)

### **Makah Fisherman reports Automobiles abandoned off Cape Flattery**

A Makah fishing vessel has reported pulling up 3 cars in their net off of Cape Flattery. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff are working with the U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement to investigate as a potential sanctuary violation.

### **Hollings Scholar Establishes Oceanographic Data Processing Protocols for OCNMS**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Hollings Scholar intern Vanessa Constant conducted a preliminary study of long-term temperature variation at a nearshore site off Cape Elizabeth, WA where OCNMS has collected oceanographic data since 2005. She established the sanctuary's first data assessment protocol for analyzing long-term trends in ocean temperature data derived from the OCNMS mooring array. Vanessa also participated in mooring deployment from the R/V *Tatoosh*, calibrated oceanographic instruments, and provided technical support to the vessel crew. Vanessa provided a detailed protocol of data processing methods and a statistical summary of temperature change at the southern extent of the OCNMS mooring array.

## **IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY**

### **Three Hollings Scholars Completed Summer Internships with OCNMS**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) hosted three Hollings Scholars from NOAA's Office of Education (OED) over the summer. Katie O'Reilly, Vanessa Constant and Kevin Pelstring completed their individual projects in late July and shared final presentations to OCNMS staff before presenting in front of peers and a panel of judges at the OED headquarters office in Silver Spring, MD. The NOAA Hollings Scholarship is designed to support undergraduate studies in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology, and education, to increase public understanding and support for stewardship of the ocean and atmosphere and improve environmental literacy. It aims to recruit and prepare students for public service careers with NOAA.



### **COASST Program Trains New Volunteers**



Heidi Pedersen of OCNMS assisted Liz Mack from the University of Washington COASST program in a citizen science training in Forks August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) is a citizen science project of the University of Washington in partnership with Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary as well as with state, tribal and other federal agencies, environmental organizations and community groups. Seven new volunteers were trained and will conduct monthly monitoring along five COASST beaches in OCNMS that have not been surveyed. COASST volunteers collect data on seabird carcasses, presence of oil, wood and wrack, as well as visitor use.

### **Olympic Coast Discovery Center Reaches over 5,000 Visitors in 2013**

The Olympic Coast Discovery Center (OCDC), the sanctuary's visitor's center, provided interpretive information about the cultural and natural resources within OCNMS to nearly 5,000 visitors and locals daily from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend 2013. During the 2013 season, a total of 19 docents staffed the OCDC for 413 hours. OCDC will remain open on weekends through mid-October or by appointment.



### **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Staff Join in Makah Days**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Education Team participated in the 89th Annual Makah Days, held in Neah Bay, WA, August 23-25, 2013. The event brought thousands of people out to celebrate the cultural and maritime history of the Makah Tribe. Makah Days activities included traditional dancing and singing, as well as canoe races, a street fair and parade.



## **CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY**

### **Options for Potential Modifications to Olympic 2 Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area in Washington State**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) jointly responded to a Request for Proposals from the Pacific Fishery Management Council as part of its five-year review of Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) along the west coast. The OCNMS/WDFW submission “Options for Potential Modifications to Olympic 2 Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area in Washington State” contained three options to increase protection of sensitive biogenic and rocky reef habitats both within and adjacent to the existing Olympic 2 Conservation Area.

### **Pacific Northwest Marine Mammal Stranding Network Distributes Harbor Seal Fact Sheet**

The Pacific Northwest Marine Mammal Stranding coordinator distributed a fact sheet alerting marine resource managers, educators and the public of the harbor seal pupping season in the Salish Sea area. During summer months, it is normal for harbor seal pups to haul out on the shoreline and remain for long periods without an adult present. While harbor seal pups are capable of swimming immediately after birth, they typically carry an umbilical cord for about a week after birth and wean after 4 to 6 weeks. Mothers are often away foraging for food for extended periods while pups wait near the shore. People are asked to remain 100 yards or more away from live marine mammals on the shore. If there is any concern, call the stranding network’s hotline at **1-800-853-1964**. The best thing to do is to leave the animal alone. It is not helpful—and is actually illegal—to feed, touch, or pick up a harbor seal pup. The local harbor seal population is healthy, with several thousand pups born each year. Approximately 50% of harbor seal pups die in their first year of life. Rehabilitation opportunities in the region are limited, so efforts to save pups normally are limited to instances when there is evidence of harmful interactions with dogs or humans.

### **Overflight Outreach to Washington Airports**

As part of the sanctuary’s voluntary compliance efforts “Know Before You Go, Don’t Fly Low” posters were mailed to approximately 150 Washington State airports. Airport managers were requested to display the poster in an area frequented by pilots. Sanctuary regulations prohibit the disturbance of wildlife by low flying aircraft. The poster was designed to reflect the style of an Aeronautical Sectional Chart and to include natural resource information explaining the rationale behind the regulation and the benefits to sanctuary resources. OCNMS anticipates that that by reaching out to pilots and explaining the potential impacts from low overflights, there will be fewer low altitude flights off the coast of Washington.

### **Webinar on Satellite-Based Data Collection for Monitoring of Vessel Traffic**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Deputy Superintendent George Galasso and Geographer Nancy Wright gave a webinar to Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) staff on S-AIS Vessel Monitoring (satellite-based data collection for monitoring of vessel traffic). They addressed some of the uses of vessel traffic data in OCNMS, provided background on Automatic Information Systems (AIS) technology, demonstrated two different AIS systems, and discussed lessons learned from a recent pilot project using S-AIS. They concluded with a group discussion about S-AIS at OCNMS and potential applications for other sanctuary offices. This was the first in a series of webinars sponsored by headquarters on specific topics relevant to the National Marine Sanctuary System. The intent is to share knowledge and experiences between offices and foster a collective approach to engage and support the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

### **Hollings Scholar Conducts Greenhouse Gas Emission Audit for OCNMS**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Hollings Scholar intern Kevin Pelstring used a program developed by the National Park Service, the Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) Tool, to calculate the greenhouse gas and particulate emissions of all OCNMS operations. His calculations included the commuting habits and travel of all employees, energy usage of all vehicles and watercraft, the utilities of all of the sanctuary offices, wastewater treatment, solid waste disposal and the permitted use of aircraft and large vessels in the sanctuary. Kevin developed a procedure to use the CLIP Tool to estimate National Marine Sanctuary emissions and documented his methods and results in his final report, *Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory: Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (2013)*. After completing the greenhouse gas inventory, he drafted a greenhouse gas emission reduction plan for OCNMS, detailing many possible measures to reduce their emissions.

## CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Sanctuary Superintendent Carol Bernthal participated in a NOAA West sponsored briefing for Washington state based staff for congressional members on July 27 in Seattle, WA. The event allowed each of the NOAA line offices the opportunity to briefly present key issues and included a tour of R/V *Fairweather* before it departed on a west coast ocean acidification research cruise.

## UNDERSTANDING THE SANCTUARY'S CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

### Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Socioeconomic Team Completes OCNMS Profile

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) social scientists have recently completed a "Study Area Profile" for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. With improved information about the socioeconomic values of resources in the sanctuary, more detailed understanding of what human uses are occurring in the sanctuary, and clearer understanding of what human uses might be proposed in the sanctuary, OCNMS will be better equipped to make sound management decisions. The first step in this effort is the completion of a "Study Area Profile" which provides the basis of analyses to establish the dependencies of local communities/economies on uses of resources in the sanctuary and for assessing how people can adapt to or mitigate policy/management changes that may impact their use patterns. The "Study Area Profile" is updated with 2010 data from the U.S. Department of Commerce Census Bureau and Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Demographic and economic profiles are included by county. The profile will be posted on the ONMS website in the near future, <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic>

### OCNMS Supports Characterization of Tribal Cultural Landscapes Project

Characterizing Tribal Cultural Landscapes is a collaborative effort among the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), ONMS, the National Marine Protected Areas Center, a tribal facilitator, and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) from three tribes (Yurok Tribe of CA, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, OR and Makah Tribe of WA) to support tribes in identifying areas of tribal significance. The project will involve inter-tribal workshops, an analysis guide, case studies and outreach and will be adaptable for other Native American communities to utilize in the future. Bob Steelquist, Education Coordinator is part of the project team working with all three tribes in the process and Nancy Wright, Marine Geographer, is providing GIS support to the project. OCNMS staff, at the invitation of the Makah Tribe, will participate in the workshop held and hosted by the Makah Tribe in late September.

## SANCTUARY PERMITTING

### Issued Permits and Approvals

**OCNMS-2013-005** – Mr. Ben Dupris, Known Deviant Productions

**Project Title:** Aerial Videography of Paddle to Taholah

**Permitted Activity:** low altitude overflight, no lower than 700 feet above ground or sea level within the overflight restriction zone of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

**Project Location:** over waters of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary offshore from the Quinault Indian Nation's lands, south of the Queets River

**Permit Duration:** August 1, 2013 only

**OCNMS-2013-005** – Mrs. Ashleigh Thompson

**Project Title:** Disperse Cremated Remains

**Permitted Activity:** disposal of cremated remains of 2 persons on Ruby Beach or in nearshore waters

**Project Location:** Ruby Beach, Olympic National Park, Washington

**Permit Duration:** September 21 – October 31, 2013

**OCNMS-2010-010-Amendment 1** – Dr. John Hildebrand

**Project Title:** Acoustic and Visual Monitoring for Cetaceans along the Outer Washington Coast

**Permitted Activity:** annual deployment and recovery of a High-frequency Acoustic Recording Package (HARP) buoy within OCNMS. The HARP buoy will be recovered, re-outfitted with batteries and hard drives and re-deployed, with weather-dependent goals of operations in July of each year through 2016 (final buoy retrieval). With each recovery event, the

mooring weight, an iron/steel railroad wheel about <3 feet in diameter, and short length of chain will be abandoned on the seafloor.

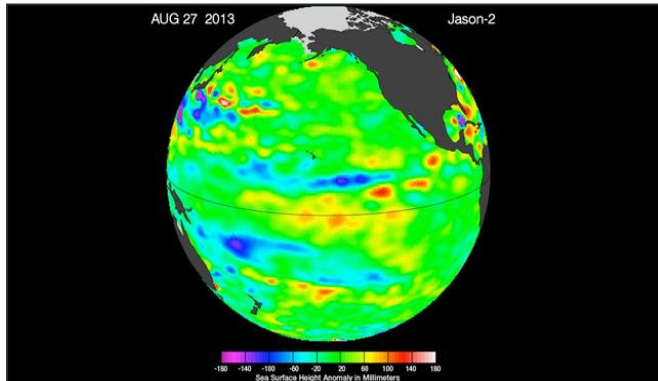
**Project Location:** offshore Cape Elizabeth, Washington at water depth of approximately 200m at a station designated S2.

**Permit Duration:** September 9, 2013 through November 30, 2016

## LEARN ABOUT YOUR SANCTUARY / NATURAL HISTORY

New information about resources in the sanctuary is always emerging. This section of the office report is reserved for sharing brief descriptions of recent studies, observations, findings, reports, and forecasts related to the sanctuary.

### 'La Nada' Climate Pattern Lingers in the Pacific



**Figure 1:** The near-normal conditions are shown in this new image (as areas shaded in green), based on the average of 10 days of data centered on Aug. 27, 2013. The image is available at:

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/spaceimages/details.php?id=pia17454>

New remote sensing data from NASA's Jason-2 satellite show near-normal sea-surface height conditions across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. This neutral, or "La Nada" event, has stubbornly persisted for 16 months, since spring 2012. Models suggest this pattern will continue through the spring of 2014, according to the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

Without an El Niño or La Niña signal present, other, less predictable climatic factors will govern fall, winter and spring weather conditions, according to climatologist Bill Patzert of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA. Long-range forecasts are most successful during El Niño and La Niña episodes. When the 'in between' ocean state, La Nada, is the dominant condition, it is frustrating for long-range forecasters. It's like driving without a decent road map—it makes forecasting difficult.

The height of the sea water relates, in part, to its temperature, and thus is an indicator of the amount of heat stored in the ocean below. As the ocean warms, its level rises; as it cools, its level falls. Yellow and red areas indicate where the waters are relatively warmer and have expanded above normal sea level, while green (which dominates in this image) indicates near-normal sea level, and blue and purple areas show where the waters are relatively colder and sea level is lower than normal. Above-normal height variations along the equatorial Pacific indicate El Niño conditions, while below-normal height variations indicate La Niña conditions. The temperature of the upper ocean can have a significant influence on weather patterns and climate. For a more detailed explanation of what this type of image means, visit: <http://sealevel.jpl.nasa.gov/science/elinopdo/latestdata/>. NASA, Jet Propulsion Lab, Pasadena, CA, September 9, 2013

### OCNMS Field Operations Reveal Abundant Sealife

Field operations supporting NOAA NMFS/Liquid Robotics, PMEL, and OCNMS mooring operations took the R/V *Tatoosh* to the extents of OCNMS over the Labor Day weekend. The crew was impressed by the quantity and variety of sea life they observed during their projects. When transiting over the Juan De Fuca Canyon, the R/V *Tatoosh* crossed paths with a pod of Orca and saw at least 10 humpback whales, sunfish, Dall's porpoise, albatross and numerous seabirds. On transits along the coast, sea otters were often encountered several miles from shore between the 25m and 42m contours. On the transit to the southwest portion of the sanctuary numerous humpback whales were observed.

The R/V *Tatoosh* is frequently greeted by gray whales when visiting Cape Alava. One to three grays have been observed foraging between Ozette Island and Bodeltch Islands on every visit during the past four weeks. There is always a plethora of sea lions on many of the rocks and islands in OCNMS.



**Figure 2:** A sunfish, or common *Mola mola*, warms in the surface waters before returning to its normal depths of 200-600 meters.

## REGIONAL / NATIONAL ONMS NEWS

### **West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries Submit Proposals to Improve Protection of Essential Fish Habitat**

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries responded to a request for proposals to modify essential fish habitat (EFH) for Pacific coast groundfish. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) issued the request as part of its five-year review of EFH. Conservation measures implemented by the council in 2006 to protect EFH from fishing impacts include large conservation areas off-limits to bottom fishing gear along the West Coast, several of which are located within national marine sanctuaries. Olympic Coast, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries have been collecting scientific data on the condition of benthic habitats, including rare and sensitive deep-sea coral communities, within their boundaries for several years. Using these data, sanctuary staff collaborated with local stakeholders, conservation NGOs, fishery managers from state agencies and NOAA Fisheries Service, Treaty Tribes, and fishermen to develop community proposals that aim to better protect sensitive habitats within sanctuaries from fishing gear while allowing fishermen continued or renewed access to historically productive fishing grounds in less-sensitive habitats. The Council will make a decision in November 2013 whether to accept the proposals and proceed with further environmental analysis and eventual adoption.

### **ONMS Sanctuary Nomination Process (SNP) Moves Forward**

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) re-established a Sanctuary Nomination Process (SNP) to replace the Site Evaluation List (SEL), which was deactivated in 1995. The sixty-day public comment period on a proposed rule closed August 27, 2013, with ONMS receiving nearly 18,000 comments, the majority of which were in support of NOAA's proposal. ONMS staff began analyzing the comments to apply them to the development of the final evaluation criteria that will be used to assess the viability of community-based nominations for possible consideration as new national marine sanctuaries. Any new national marine sanctuary would be conducted through a separate process, governed by the requirements of National Marine Sanctuaries Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Given the volume of comments, NOAA cannot currently estimate an exact date for completion of the final rule but estimates it will occur after January 2014.

### **Eighty-two Marine Protected Areas Join National System of MPAs**

Following a two month public comment period, 82 marine protected areas (MPA) have been accepted into the National System of MPAs. Eighty of the sites are MPAs established through California's Marine Life Protection Act and managed by the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife, and two of the sites are managed by the National Park Service (Padre Island National Seashore in Texas and Redwood National Park in California). The national system was established in 2008 to provide a means to connect and strengthen the nation's diverse marine protected area programs managed by federal, state, territorial, tribal and local governments. This addition brings the total number of marine protected areas in the national system to 437. Sites in the system remain under the management of the agency that established them, but work together voluntarily and cooperatively to address common management problems, such as adapting to climate change impacts or managing emerging ocean uses. For a list of marine protected areas in the national system, including the 82 new additions, see <http://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/nationalsystem/nationalsystemlist>

### **NOAA Dedicates Trail Sign to Commemorate 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of USS Monitor**

On August 27, 2013 nearly 100 people were present at as NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNSM) dedicated the first of five USS *Monitor* Trail signs in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of the *Monitor's* wreck site in 1973. The event took place at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort to commemorate the efforts of the distinguished team of researchers who located the iconic vessel 111 years after it sank in a storm off the NC coast. The *Monitor* Trail will be a series of wayside signs placed in various locations that are historically significant to the USS *Monitor*. In addition to the sign placed in Beaufort, the other signs are tentatively scheduled to be installed at The Mariner's Museum in Newport News, VA, where *Monitor* artifacts are being conserved; Fort Monroe, VA, where the sailors were taken after the ship sank; and Cape Hatteras, NC, where the ship sank in 1862. Future locations for *Monitor* signs may include New York, where the ship was built and launched, the Washington Navy Yard and the James River.

### **Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Establishes New Business Advisory Council**

ONMS has established a new business advisory council to provide the Director with views of the industry leaders as they work with corporate partners in marine resource protection. Business leaders will be invited to join the council, which will consist of 15 volunteers representing industries such as travel and tourism, recreation, fishing, transportation, energy, and marketing. Members will be appointed by the national marine sanctuaries and serve two- to three-year terms. Council members will serve as liaisons between their industries and NOAA, and will have a role in providing advice on regulatory or administrative matters. The council will work with sanctuary leadership on strategies to use the sanctuary system's recreational value and beauty to aid local economies, engage the corporate sector and other non-traditional partners in marine



resource protection, and develop projects to sustain and protect the sanctuaries and other marine protected areas, among other initiatives. For additional information, visit <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/bac>

## NEWS COVERAGE

### Grays Harbor Tall Ships to Escort Paddle to Quinault Canoes

Brig Lady Washington and its companion ship, Hawaiian Chieftain, were invited by Quinault Indian Nation to escort the First Nations ocean-going canoes. The two tall ships would provide safety and logistical support to those undertaking the “Paddle to Quinault 2013” journey.

<http://kbkw.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=5783>

### Port Angeles City Council OKs Marine Life Center Pact

Port Angeles City Council members voted unanimously to approve an agreement with Feiro Marine Life Center and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary to solidify the relationship among the three parties. They are committed to working toward a shared facility that would allow both marine partners to further their mission of education and outreach.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20130719/news/307199987/port-angeles-city-council-oks-marine-life-center-pact>

### Olympic Marine Sanctuary Looks for Advisory Council Applicants

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council is accepting applications for two vacant primary seats (Conservation and Tourism/ Economic Development) through Sept. 30, 2013. Candidates are selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and views regarding the protection and management of marine resources.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20130819/news/308199987/olympic-marine-sanctuary-looks-for-advisory-council-applicants>

### Pullers Brave Rough Waters to Honor Warriors in Paddle to Quinault

Twenty-four years ago, Quinault educator and retired Coast Guard officer Emmett Oliver, proposed the Paddle to Seattle as part of Washington state’s centennial celebration to ensure the state’s First Peoples had a presence. This year Oliver, the Quinault Nation’s oldest living veteran at 99, watched as his 14-year-old grandson’s canoe arrived at Point Grenville in Aug.

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/08/05/rowers-brave-angry-waves-weather-during-paddle-quinault-wash-150748>

### NOAA Announces Additions to National System of Marine Protected Areas

NOAA announced the inclusion of 82 existing marine protected areas (MPA) into the National System of Marine Protected Areas, bringing the total number of MPAs in the national system to 437. The national system was established in 2008 to connect and strengthen the nation’s diverse MPA programs managed by federal, state, territorial, tribal and local governments.

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2013-08/nh-naa081413.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2013-08/nh-naa081413.php)

### NOAA Identifies Lurking Environment Threats

A new NOAA report that examines national oil pollution threat from shipwrecks has been presented to the U.S. Coast Guard (see report at: [http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/protect/ppw/pdfs/2013\\_potentiallypollutingwrecks.pdf](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/protect/ppw/pdfs/2013_potentiallypollutingwrecks.pdf)). With as many as 20,000 recorded shipwrecks in NOAA’s database, the May 2013 report finds that just 36 sunken vessels scattered across the U.S. seafloor could pose an oil pollution threat to the nation’s coastal marine resources.

<http://www.marinelink.com/news/environmental-identifies358442.aspx>

### New Life for National Marine Sanctuary System

Public ownership and federal protection of America’s natural and historical treasures are essential elements of our nation’s identity and heritage and receive bipartisan support. Under the 2010 National Ocean Policy of the Obama administration, action is being sought to reactivate a dormant process for identifying and designating new National Marine Sanctuaries.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/news/2013/08/28/73167/new-life-for-the-national-marine-sanctuary-system>

### Sea Change: The Pacific’s Perilous Turn

Increased levels of carbon dioxide emitted into the air are changing the chemistry of the oceans faster than at any time in human history. The resulting ocean acidification is threatening marine ecosystems.

<http://apps.seattletimes.com/reports/sea-change/2013/sep/11/pacific-ocean-perilous-turn-overview>



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### Sea Change: Lucrative Crab Industry in Danger

New research earlier this year shows that Alaskan red king crab populations could be seriously threatened by effects of ocean acidification. Waters with lower pH significantly reduce the survival rates of larval and juvenile stages of these commercially valuable organisms.

<http://apps.seattletimes.com/reports/sea-change/2013/sep/11/alaska-crab-industry>

### Sea Change: Oysters Dying as Coast is Hit Hard

Carbon dioxide from fossil-fuel emissions turned seawater in Washington State's Willapa Bay lethal to young Pacific oysters and clams.

<http://apps.seattletimes.com/reports/sea-change/2013/sep/11/oysters-hit-hard/?cmpid=2628>

### WEB SITE (<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/>)

### Follow the OCNMS on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/usolympiccoastgov>

*Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.*

*Comments and suggestions can be sent to  
[Jacqueline.Laverdure@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Laverdure@noaa.gov).*

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## FUN, OCEAN-RELATED WEB SITES

### National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

### National Ocean Service

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

### Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

### NOAA Marine Debris Program

<http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/>

### NOAA Online Media Library

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos>

### Encyclopedia of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/onms/park/>

### NOAA Ocean Explorer

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>

### National Data Buoy Center

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>

### Washington's Ocean Resources

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/index.html>

### CoastWatch – West Coast Regional Node

<http://coastwatch.pfel.noaa.gov/>

### Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems

<http://www.nanoos.org/>

### NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory

<http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/>



## Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the Sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.olympiccoast.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:  
[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac\\_welcome.html](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_welcome.html)

### The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is one of 14 marine protected areas in the National Marine Sanctuary System encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Visit the ONMS web site at: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

## Get involved!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:  
<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/welcome.html>

## OCNMS Staff

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